

Application No. 10/063,973

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1-26 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended the claims to overcome each of the Examiner's rejections. These amendments have made the claims broader, so no estoppel effects should result.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yu et al (US Pat. 5,911,934), as evidenced by Rudolph et al (US Pat. 3,989,655). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant recites in claim 1, a flexible imaging member seam treatment article preparation method. The method includes providing a flexible substrate, coating a surface of the flexible substrate with a solution including at least one thermoplastic polymer component, and drying the coated surface to form a film of the at least one polymer component on the coated surface.

The Examiner should allow claim 1, as the Examiner has not shown that the '934 patent anticipates claim 1. The Examiner has pointed to portions of the '934 patent that describe making a photoreceptor belt. However, Applicant's claim is to a method of preparing a flexible imaging seam treatment article (in embodiments, the seam treatment or laminate strip 32). The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '934 patent that shows a seam treatment article or a method of preparing one. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '934 patent that discloses a seam treatment article, the rejection should be withdrawn and the claim 1 allowed.

Claims 2-9 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 2-9 depend from claim 1.

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In claim 10, Applicant recites a belt seam treatment strip preparation method. The method includes dissolving a thermoplastic polymer into a solvent, applying the dissolved thermoplastic polymer to a surface of a flexible substrate, and eliminating the solvent to form a thermoplastic polymer film on the surface of the substrate.

The Examiner should allow claim 10, as the Examiner has not shown that the '934 patent anticipates claim 10. The Examiner has pointed to portions of the '934 patent that describe making a photoreceptor belt. However, Applicant's claim is to a method of preparing a belt seam treatment strip (in embodiments, the seam treatment or laminate strip 32). The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '934 patent that shows a seam treatment article or a method of preparing one. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '934 patent that discloses a seam treatment article, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 10 allowed.

Claims 11-20 should be allowed if claim 10 is allowed as claims 11-20 depend from claim 10.

In claim 22, Applicant recites a flexible imaging belt seam treatment article comprising a flexible substrate supporting a thermoplastic polymer film deposited thereon by dissolution of a film-forming thermoplastic polymer in a carrier solvent, application of a resulting solution to the flexible substrate, and elimination of the carrier solvent.

The Examiner should allow claim 22, as the Examiner has not shown that the '934 patent anticipates claim 22. The Examiner has pointed to portions of the '934 patent that describe making a photoreceptor belt. However, Applicant's claim is to a flexible imaging belt seam treatment article (in embodiments, the seam treatment or laminate strip 32). The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '934 patent that shows a seam treatment article or a method of preparing one. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '934 patent that discloses a seam treatment article, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 22 allowed.

Claims 23-26 should be allowed if claim 22 is allowed as claims 23-26 depend from claim 22.

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Claims 1-4, 7-15 and 18-26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yu et al (US Pat. 6,117,603), as evidenced by Rudolph et al (US Pat. 3,989,655). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant recites in claim 1, a flexible imaging member seam treatment article preparation method. The method includes providing a flexible substrate, coating a surface of the flexible substrate with a solution including at least one thermoplastic polymer component, and drying the coated surface to form a film of the at least one polymer component on the coated surface.

The Examiner should allow claim 1, as the Examiner has not shown that the '603 patent anticipates claim 1. The Examiner has pointed to portions of the '603 patent that describe making a photoreceptor belt. However, Applicant's claim is to a method of preparing a flexible imaging seam treatment article (in embodiments, the seam treatment or laminate strip 32). The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '603 patent that shows a seam treatment article or a method of preparing one. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '603 patent that discloses a seam treatment article, the rejection should be withdrawn and the claim 1 allowed.

Claims 2-4 and 7-9 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 2-4 and 7-9 depend from claim 1.

In claim 10, Applicant recites a belt seam treatment strip preparation method. The method includes dissolving a thermoplastic polymer into a solvent, applying the dissolved thermoplastic polymer to a surface of a flexible substrate, and eliminating the solvent to form a thermoplastic polymer film on the surface of the substrate.

The Examiner should allow claim 10, as the Examiner has not shown that the '603 patent anticipates claim 10. The Examiner has pointed to portions of the '603 patent that describe making a photoreceptor belt. However, Applicant's claim is to a method of preparing a belt seam treatment strip (in embodiments, the seam treatment or laminate strip 32). The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '603 patent that shows a seam treatment article or a method of preparing one. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As

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the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '603 patent that discloses a seam treatment article, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 10 allowed.

Claims 11-15 and 18-21 should be allowed if claim 10 is allowed as claims 11-15 and 18-21 depend from claim 10.

In claim 22, Applicant recites a flexible imaging belt seam treatment article comprising a flexible substrate supporting a thermoplastic polymer film deposited thereon by dissolution of a film-forming thermoplastic polymer in a carrier solvent, application of a resulting solution to the flexible substrate, and elimination of the carrier solvent.

The Examiner should allow claim 22, as the Examiner has not shown that the '603 patent anticipates claim 22. The Examiner has pointed to portions of the '603 patent that describe making a photoreceptor belt. However, Applicant's claim is to a flexible imaging belt seam treatment article (in embodiments, the seam treatment or laminate strip 32). The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '603 patent that shows a seam treatment article or a method of preparing one. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '603 patent that discloses a seam treatment article, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 22 allowed.

Claims 23-26 should be allowed if claim 22 is allowed as claims 23-26 depend from claim 22.

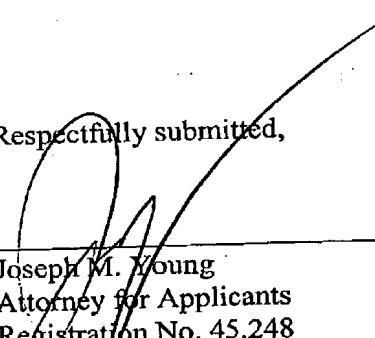
Claims 27 and 28 are new and are believed to be allowable.

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Conclusion

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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